



City of Charleston

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The 33rd Annual Cooper River Bridge Run and Walk is just under 2 weeks away, and I wanted to send you a "heads up" on the Race details as they relate to traffic in downtown Charleston. The Race is on **Saturday, March 27**, beginning at 7:25 AM with the Bridge Run Wheel Chair Race, and the big 10K Run and Walk beginning at 8 AM. We are estimating 40,000 participants and 10,000 additional enthusiasts.

We have made a slight change in the Race Route this year and will be turning off of **Meeting Street and onto Woolfe Street to King Street**. This small change will cause us to divert traffic from King Street at Spring Street over to St. Philip Street, which may affect your accessibility to your neighborhoods or stores. Traffic will still be able to flow north and south on East Bay Street throughout the Race.

Additionally, The Charleston Police Department has developed a traffic plan to help with easing the traffic congestion that results from the Race Expo on Friday afternoon. Please be aware of this and look for their leadership throughout the day. The Race Expo hours are Thursday, March 25, from 12 noon to 8PM and Friday, March 26, from 8AM to 8PM.

Here is a brief summary of the Road Closures you will experience around the Race.

Friday, March 26

1. Hampton Park / Mary Murray Blvd – 1 PM to 6 PM [KIDS RUN]
2. **George Street** between Meeting and Anson Streets will be closed at 8 PM until 2 PM Saturday, March 27. Neighborhood traffic from Menotti Lane will have access to egress east on George Street, as well as, residents parked on this portion of George Street.
3. **Meeting Street** between Calhoun and Wentworth Streets will be closed at 10 PM. The Northbound Lane of Meeting Street from George Street to Calhoun Street will remain open; the southbound lane of Meeting Street from George Street to Calhoun Street will be closed for traffic.

Saturday, March 27

1. Towing along the race route begins at 4 AM!
2. **Calhoun Street**, between King and East Bay Streets, will be closed at 5 AM. Calhoun Street will be closed from King Street to East Bay Street until the participants are in a manageable location and out of the roadways, streets are cleaned and bus traffic are safely able to be managed, hopefully before 1PM.
3. **Meeting Street** will close at 5 AM from John Street to Wentworth Street; *NOTE: George Street will have limited access to the parking lot between King and Meeting Streets only from King Street prior to 7AM and will not re-open until King Street is open following the race.*
4. **Arthur Ravenel Bridge Bike Lane** will be closed at 6:30 AM to clear the bridge of pedestrian traffic. The Bike/ Pedestrian Lane will re-open when the Bridge re-opens.
5. **The Race Route and support streets will be closed at 7 AM until the participants are finished and the roadways are cleaned.**
 - a. Both directions of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge will be closed until the participants have cleared the bridge, support staff removed, barricades removed, and the bridge cleaned of any debris.
 - b. Meeting Street will be closed from Romney Street to Woolfe Street and John Street to Hasell Street with early openings following the participants safely off the route and the route cleaned.
 - c. Woolfe Street will be closed from Meeting Street to King Street
 - d. King Street will be closed from Spring Street to Wentworth Street
 - e. Wentworth Street will be closed from King Street to Meeting Street

An alternative route will be made to allow traffic to flow north and south around the west side of King Street to ensure traffic can move easily around town. Traffic east of Meeting Street will have full access to East Bay Street to travel to the Lower Peninsula and elsewhere. The Charleston Police Department has perimeter traffic control setup on entrances to the route and will be working to minimize your confusion.

Please be reminded that the Ravenel Bridge will not be open in either direction during the Race beginning at 7 AM. **We would ask you to inform your customers, guests and neighbors to be aware of the road closures and have a plan to get to your businesses, homes or destinations. You will be able to get through the City in all directions, but it may be time consuming so please plan ahead.**

Tentative Summary of Race Week Highlights for 33rd Annual CRBR

1. The Gaillard Auditorium will be used for the Bridge Run Exposition on **Thursday, March 25, 12AM to 8PM, and Friday, March 26, 8AM to 8PM.** The City is providing parking vouchers for expo participants to park for the event using the Aquarium Garage, as much as possible.
2. Hampton Park will be the site of the Kids Run on Friday, March 26. Setup for this event will begin Thursday, March 25.
3. Marion Square will be used on Saturday, March 27, along with the streets to host the finish festival area. Set up will begin about Wed., March 25.
4. The Parking Garages at the Visitor's Center, Gaillard, and Aquarium will allow participants to park from 5 PM on Friday (3/26) to Saturday (3/27) 2PM for a flat \$5.00 rate.
5. **In 2011 the 34th Annual Cooper River Bridge Run is scheduled for April 2!!** For more info: www.bridgerun.com